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HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y

AMERICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE HOSTS ACTIVIST, AUTHOR TEMPLE GRANDIN

written by Mbonham March 18, 2021



Dr. Temple Grandin signs a book after the American Studies Institute lecture in the George S. Benson Auditorium on March 16. | Photo by Audrey Jackson

Harding University's American Studies Institute (ASI) hosted Temple Grandin on Tuesday for its Distinguished Lecture Series.

Grandin is an American scientist, activist for autism and author of over 60 scientific papers on animal behavior.

"She is a part of the American Studies Distinguished Lecture Series, and every year we bring experts to campus whether they be authors, educators or world leaders," ASI Executive Director Kim Kirkman said. "[Grandin] is a very interesting person. She has a lot of different accolades: She is autistic, a professor at Colorado State University in animal science, and has several books about autism and animal science. She has developed a theory for cattle when slaughtered: When cattle are stressed, the meat is tough, but when they are calm, the meat is tender."

Grandin has influenced and encouraged people by telling them they can be successful with the mind they have.

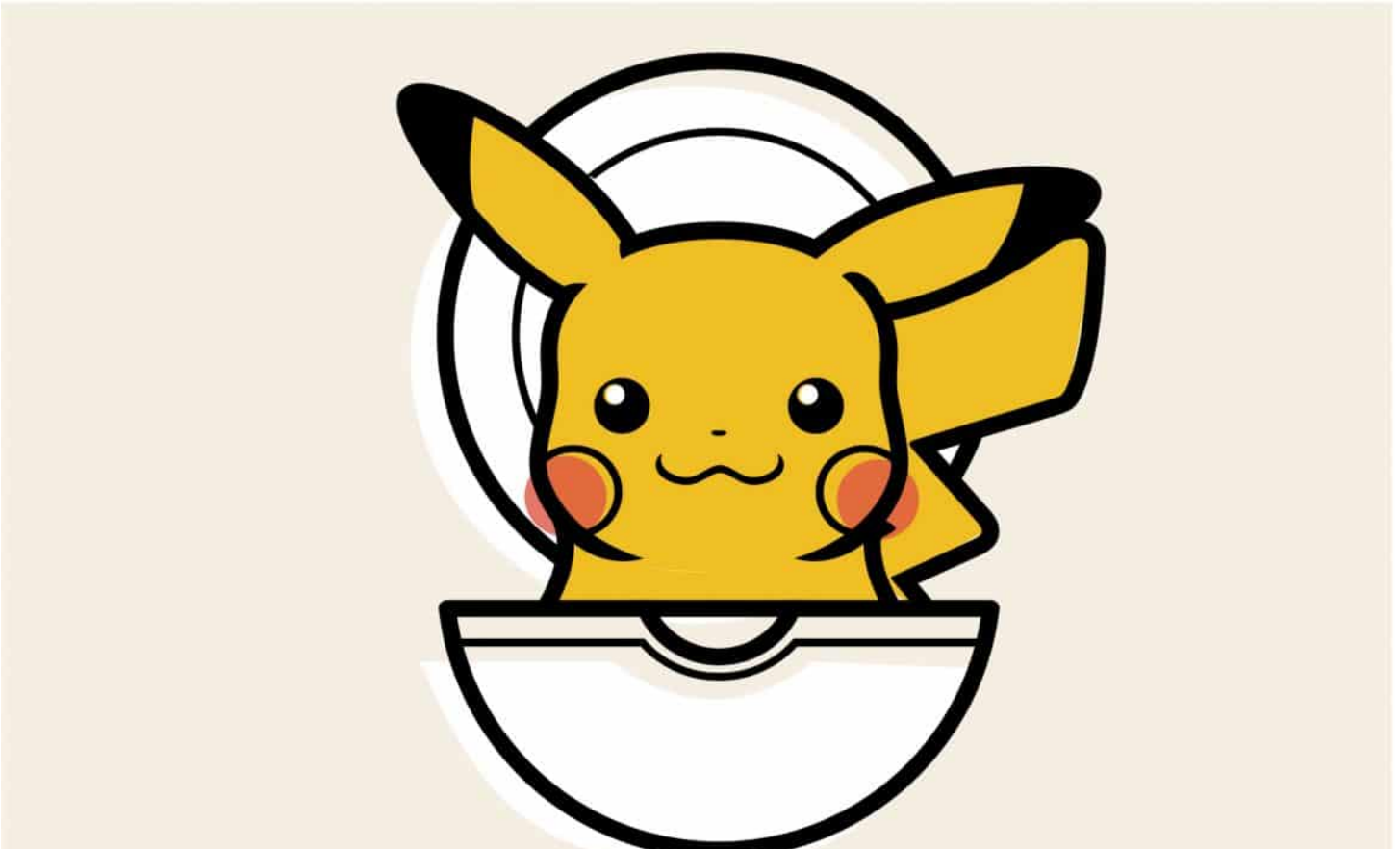
“Grandin opened many doors for special education teachers because she is autistic and she is able to articulate what it feels like to be autistic,” assistant professor of education Lisa Bryant said. “I have been fortunate enough to see her speak three different times, and she is so fascinating because of the way she thinks in pictures. But for me, I use her in my classes so people understand how [to] interact and teach kids with disabilities. She is an amazing advocate, and there is even an HBO movie about her life for those who want more information about her.”

ASI advertised around campus and encouraged students to attend. One student who attended, junior Hannah Arnold, was inspired by Grandin and connected her story to Arnold’s role as a future educator.

“I’ve known about [Grandin] for a while now because of a class I took last year,” Arnold said. “She’s inspiring to me because, as a future educator, I know there are different needs I will have to meet for my students, and she was able to voice that in a way I had never heard before.”

CAMPUS MEMBERS ENJOY POKÉMON'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

written by Guest March 19, 2021



Graphic by Isabelle Cutts

Written by Benjamin Lane.

The Pokémon franchise is celebrating its 25th anniversary throughout 2021, and the game is still popular among Harding students.

Originated in 1996 in Japan, Pokémon came to the United States in 1998 for Gameboys. Like in Japan, the game quickly became popular in the U.S., and its updates and spin-offs of the original game have kept it relevant. Now in its 25th year, Pokémon has announced a series of events the franchise plans to release throughout the year.

The franchise's most recent event, a virtual concert featuring Post Malone, gathered millions of views since its release on Feb. 27. Malone, Katy Perry, J Balvin and other unnamed artists will release an album with 14 Pokémon-inspired songs by the end of 2021.

"If I'm being honest, I'm not a huge Post Malone fan, but I think it's really cool that they have that connection there for people who do like Post Malone," junior Malachi Shero said.

Harding has its own Pokémon community, and while there are no planned celebrations on campus, students are able to virtually celebrate if they choose. The community is sustained largely through the Pokémon Go app — which has over 1 billion cumulative downloads — and students can be seen playing the game around campus, even after its initial release in 2016.

"If you're standing outside the Lee Building and you see somebody walking, looking at your group, looking at the Lee Building, looking at their phone, it's: 'You're a Pokémon Go player,'" senior Riley Judd said.

Pokémon Go offers players the option to cooperate in battle against Pokémon characters. At these cooperative battles, Shero noticed the same people would attend each event, and he and other regular participants "naturally" grouped together. Now, Shero is part of a Pokémon Go GroupMe chat where players can coordinate their attacks. Judd also participates and has made friends through the app.

"I do have good connections with some of those people that I wouldn't really have had without getting to go run around Harding, being silly trying to catch Pokémon," Judd said. "It is still just good fun. There's great fun in suspending your disbelief, catching these creatures who are now your best friends, raising them, meeting other people. With how far Pokémon has come, it's so much easier to meet actual people via Pokémon and make connections that way."

Sophomore Ethan Gardner is following the franchise's anniversary events and releases. He is most excited for the release of the remake of Pokémon Diamond and Pearl — one of his childhood favorites — but Pokémon is more than a childhood game to him. "It helps encourage my desire to travel because it's all about going throughout a region and making friends and creating bonds with people," Gardner said. "It has always fostered and encouraged interacting with people in real life."

CHRIST TEMPLE CHURCH CATCHES FIRE, CAUSING DAMAGES, INJURING NONE

written by Mrichardson1 March 19, 2021



Searcy firefighters douse a fire at the Christ Temple Holiness Church on March 16 | Photo by Namon Pope

Christ Temple Church caught fire on Tuesday around 4:30 p.m. The attic of the building billowed with smoke and flames, lasting for nearly three hours. From 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, traffic was redirected on Pleasure Avenue, the location of Christ Temple Church.

The Searcy Fire Department was onsite 30 minutes after the fire began and immediately began their work. They climbed onto the roof using hoses and an axe, creating more space for the smoke to exit the building.

The church's pastor and other members were in the building cleaning the sanctuary for worship before the fire began. Around an hour after they left, a woman in her home nearby smelled smoke and called 911. No one was in the building at the time of the fire.

"I think it was an electrical problem that caused [the fire] because the church is over 100 years old," Pastor Robert Nichols said. "I'm glad it wasn't more extensive than it is."

The building is 150 years old but is not listed under the White County Historical Society as a historical landmark.

"It's been here forever, since we were little girls," church member Tasha Abrams said. "We all grew up here for years."

The congregation does not have plans for repairs at this time but has postponed their Easter celebration. Further instruction of repairs will follow the investigation and direction from the church's bishop. If weather permits, Christ Temple will hold services this Sunday on their field behind the church building.

"We are a community," church member Kim Johnson said. "No matter what, we will come together."

COFFEE KINGS OF CAMPUS

written by Rachelbible March 18, 2021



A student brews espresso in their dorm room in Pryor Hall on March 18. | Photo by Audrey Jackson

The connections, caffeine and community that coffee brings to students can be seen all over campus. From students in their dorm rooms inviting new students over, or just making a huge pot to share during test week, coffee has a way of bringing people together, and some students on campus have unique ways of getting their caffeine intake.

Sophomore Bonnie Spann lives in Cathcart Hall and makes coffee with a French press multiple times a day. While she does not have a stove to heat water on, she recommends that students buy an electric kettle to use.

“Spend some more money on a really good French press and electric kettle,” Spann said. “You will end up saving money in the long run.”

Spann attributes her switch from a more traditional method of making coffee in the dorm to saving money. Her advice to those who want to start making coffee more often is to buy a bulk bag of beans and grind them fresh before making the coffee.

While saving money is a large part of making drinks in dorm rooms, it can lead to missing out on the environment at a coffee shop. Senior Carter Shields is a barista at Midnight Oil who enjoys ordering coffee as well as making it in his apartment.

"I love making my own coffee manually because of the rhythmic process and the reward of creating something delicious," Shields said.

Shields and Spann both enjoy the process of making coffee by hand and prefer the taste. While Spann uses a French press, Shields switches between a Hario V60 and a Chemex for brewing at home. These coffee makers use the pour over method to saturate the grounds with water to produce an even taste.

Entering into the world of home-brewed coffee can be daunting with so many options and tools to use. Shields suggests asking a barista or friend who is also interested in coffee.

"I would advise [you] to simply ask around," Shields said. "This could mean looking on Google or YouTube. I would recommend James Hoffman for information about manual brewing methods."

Junior Grant Countess got into brewing coffee in his dorm room after talking to friends who work at local coffee shops in town. Countess' first manual coffee maker was a hand-me-down from Shields, but he said there is nothing wrong with using a Keurig, either.

"Hey, if K-Cups are your thing, go enjoy your favorite K-Cups with friends, learn which flavors you like and don't like," Countess said. "It's so open and really has no boundaries to it at all."

Most people who are invested in making coffee and the process really enjoy the connections that it brings, and Shields, Countess and Spann frequent the local coffee shops for this purpose. Countess also said learning how to make coffee with someone is another way to make connections.

"Find someone who already enjoys the practice of making coffee," Countess said. "Share a few cups with them. Practice with them and let them teach you."

HARDING REACTS TO TARGETED KILLING AT PINE BLUFF MIDDLE SCHOOL

written by Sara McClaran March 19, 2021



Officers with the White County Sheriff's Department participate in an active shooter drill at the White County Courthouse on Jan. 17, 2020. | Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

On March 1, a shooting at a middle school in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, resulted in the death of a 15-year-old boy after two days in intensive care.

"Law enforcement's calling it a targeted killing — so, more than a school shooting, what you're really looking at is a murder that happened to take place on school grounds," director of the criminal justice program Samuel Jeffrey said.

According to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, the student was shot in a hallway of Watson Chapel Junior High School, and the suspect who fled the scene is now being held in a detention center with a bond of \$1 million.

"We've never had anything even remotely like that here at Harding," Director of Public Safety (DPS) Craig Russell said.

Harding is fortunate in that regard, but the University is not without other incidents.

"We do have situations where there may be a suspicious person on campus, [and] we do have situations where there is a dispute between people on campus," Russell said. "We've had physical altercations between students [and] even between employees in the past."

According to Russell, the University has a threat assessment team that includes officials from the DPS office, student health services office, counseling center and student life office, as well as Executive Vice President David Collins.

"We kind of advertise to the faculty and staff that if you see anything or hear anything that might be suspicious and could potentially be threatening in nature, then report that to any one of these individuals that's on the threat assessment team," Russell said.

The residence life coordinators (RLC) and resident assistants (RA) have mandatory training that includes plans for many different types of emergencies.

"We discussed a lot about active shooters [and] what we would do in those scenarios," Pryor Hall RLC Mary Fish said. "My [RA] team and I worked together to create a plan if we were to have an active shooter come to our dorm, and it's something that we've watched training videos for and I feel that our public safety is very prepared for."

Harding's DPS officers said they are especially prepared for any situation that might be a threat to students.

"Our office is very well trained and very well equipped to deal with that and respond very quickly," Russell said. "The reason that we have armed officers on campus is so that if that ever happened — in the unlikely event that that ever happened — that we're prepared to deal with that very, very quickly."

The DPS office is open at all times, and there is always a live person who is available to take calls.

"We try to make sure that students know how to contact us — we can't anticipate every possible thing that might come up on campus, including emergencies," Russell said. "What we do want to provide is a way for you to contact us very quickly."

DPS may be contacted at 501-279-5000.

JOSH'S BENCHES DONATES BENCH TO BERRY HILL PARK, SPREADING SUICIDE AWARENESS

written by Mrichardson1 March 19, 2021



Photo by Morgan Gianferante

A bright, yellow bench with a mission of hope was unveiled Thursday, March 11, at Berry Hill Park in Searcy. Josh's Benches For Awareness is a non-profit for suicide prevention and awareness. Cindy Nadelbach, the founder of Josh's Benches, lost her son Josh to suicide in 2018. Nadelbach took her loss as an opportunity to spread awareness and help those who struggle with suicide.

Josh was originally from Searcy, which inspired Nadelbach to have a piece of Josh remembered in his town. Nadelbach reached out to the Searcy Parks and Recreation Foundation to place one of the yellow benches in Searcy.

"I didn't know if [the message] was real or not so I asked my office manager to contact them," Director of Searcy Parks and Recreation Department Harry Miller said. "Come to find out, it's a thousand-dollar bench they want to donate to us."

Each yellow bench is made of recycled plastic boards and costs almost \$1,000. The bench for Berry Hill Park was paid for completely through donations from the non-profit. Josh's Benches provides the shipping, installation and plan for unveiling the bench at each location.

"We chose this place because Josh is from Searcy," founder Cindy Nadelbach said. "We just hope this helps."

As of March 19, Josh's Benches has 40 locations across the country, indoors and outside. The non-profit has pre-approved locations for more "Awareness Benches" but still needs the funding. Josh's Benches created "Sponsor a Bench," allowing people to donate towards placing a bench at their own property or another pre-approved location.

"We hope more people will donate and cause more benches to be placed," Searcy Parks and Recreation Department Office Manager Barbra Hubach said. "I keep thinking universities or high schools — some place like that where it can be for anybody."

Anyone who passes by one of the yellow Josh's Benches can see the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number (800-273-8255). The Awareness Bench is meant to spread awareness and give people who are struggling a place to sit and talk.

"We're hoping it raises awareness and gets the phone number out there," Miller said. "We hope it saves lives."

SLOANS GET THE WHOLE FAMILY INVOLVED ON CAMPUS THIS YEAR

written by Edillard March 19, 2021



The Sloan family poses in togas outside of their home on March 17. | Photo by Namon Pope

The entire immediate Sloan family is on campus this year, including Assistant Professor of Business Ellis Sloan, Assistant Professor of Communication Lori Sloan, freshman Ben Sloan and senior Camille Sloan.

Lori Sloan was born and raised on Harding's campus, specifically on Harding Drive.

"I was born in Searcy, and I grew up running around Harding's campus," Lori Sloan said.

Some of her early Harding memories include roller skating through the under-construction student center and playing tennis on courts where the George S. Benson Auditorium and Rhodes-Reaves Field House parking lot would eventually be.

She lived in Little Rock, Arkansas, for a few years, married Ellis Sloan and took an adjunct teaching job at Harding right before Camille Sloan was born. In 2004, the Sloan family traveled back to Searcy and moved into their newly renovated house on Harding Drive, where they have lived ever since.

Camille Sloan's Harding experience began young. When she lived in Little Rock, she and Lori Sloan commuted, and she attended Harding Academy. She did attend a school in Little Rock for one year but went back to Harding Academy from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Camille Sloan was a singer for Belles and Beaux, and she is still an active member of women's social club Ko Jo Kai.

This year, Camille Sloan has worked in the bookstore with her brother Ben Sloan. He grew up with Harding, playing football for Harding Academy and attending Honors Symposium.

Ellis Sloan is the one family member who did not grow up with Harding, but that does not make him any less involved. He joined the business faculty soon after his wife, helped develop the finance degree and now runs the chartered financial analyst business competition for Harding, which has won three out of their seven regional competitions. He recommends Harding to any prospective student he comes across.

"Experience is as important, if not more important, than having a Ph.D.," Ellis Sloan said. "It's about the quality of the students in regard to their spirituality."

In 2006 and 2014, the family went abroad as faculty to Harding University in Greece and Harding University in Florence, respectively. The children particularly enjoyed it as an opportunity to experience the Harding lifestyle at such a young age.

"So, even back then when Ben and I knew how cool it was to be involved with the college campus, we got to travel the world with them," Camille Sloan said.

Now that Ben Sloan is a member of men's social club Titans, the whole family is involved. Camille Sloan is a queen, and both Lori and Ellis Sloan are sponsors.

"I have been able to watch over the years, but now I'm an actual member of it, which is awesome," Ben Sloan said.

STUDENT JOSH SHOCKLEY TEACHES SPANISH AT SEARCY SCHOOL

written by Britty Gist March 19, 2021



Junior Josh Shockley collects tests from his students at Cloverdale Church of Christ on March 4. | Photo by Caroline Palmer

Junior Josh Shockley goes from sitting in the classroom to teaching in one as a Spanish teacher for high school sophomores and juniors at Crosspointe, a preparatory school in Searcy, Arkansas.

Shockley started speaking Spanish in high school and discovered a love for it that grew into his future career goals. He is studying to earn a Spanish degree with licensure and a missions minor; he sees himself teaching and possibly translating after he graduates.

Shockley said he enjoys this field because he genuinely enjoys learning new languages and how they work.

“Making connections through a different language brings another level to conversation,” Shockley said.

Shockley heard of the teaching opportunity at Crosspointe from one of his previous professors, and chairman of the department of foreign language, Dr. Kristi Bond. Bond said that Crosspointe has meetings at the Cloverdale Church of Christ and had mentioned their need for a Spanish teaching position to be filled. Thinking it could be beneficial for the school, Bond suggested they take on a Harding student, if it were allowed. Since Crosspointe is a private institution, the position could be filled by an individual that did not have the certifications required to teach for a public school. Bond said Shockley came to mind when she heard of the opportunity because he is majoring in the field and felt his schedule could allow him to manage it.

Shockley said he prayed about the opportunity and tried to make sure he could manage it with school. Once he made that step, he met with the Crosspointe administration to go through the curriculum so he would know the ropes. He is required to turn in a weekly outline to the students to show them what is going to happen in the week with the curriculum. The class he teaches consists of three students, and they are modeled after a university schedule, so he only meets with them in person two days a week. On the other days, they work on various assignments and projects that he creates based on the material covered.

Bond said this opportunity is a good experience for Shockley because it gives him a glimpse of what he would possibly be doing after he gets his degree, and it will give him something beneficial to put on his resume.

“It speaks well of him and our program that he is already getting a chance to use those valuable skills,” Bond said.

Junior Deanna Hutson has had Spanish classes with Shockley in the past and studied abroad with him. Hutson said this teaching job is an incredible opportunity for him as a student to already be pursuing his career, even as a junior.

“I am curious to see how this increases his passion for Spanish and helps him get more comfortable with his speaking ability,” Hutson said. “He definitely is doing it for others and for the idea of mission work instead of just doing it for himself.”

SURVIVOR COLLEGE EDITION: STUDENTS REFLECT ON MODERN-DAY TECHNOLOGIES THEY COULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT

written by Ellie Shelton March 19, 2021



Graphic by Isabelle Cutts

College life has changed over the years. From technology to Starbucks, there are many things that college students now feel they could not live without, many of which were not accessible, or even invented, for past generations of college students.

While most students thought social media and technology were things college students couldn't live without, junior Dylan Johnston argued that coffee is becoming increasingly more important to students.

"I don't think college students could live without coffee," Johnston said. "Most students not only grab a cup of coffee before classes even start in the morning, but also grab coffee in the afternoons as well."

Moving toward technological advances, sophomore Kady Harris said social media and other school programs help her stay organized.

"I've noticed that almost all social or extracurricular groups use either Facebook or Remind 101 to send out announcements or reminders for important events or basic information," Harris said. "It would be so difficult to not have social media to keep tabs on friends, Facebook and Remind 101 to stay updated on extracurricular activities, and even Canvas and Google Drive to keep my school work organized and submitted in a timely manner."

Harris said she cannot imagine going through college without the technology that we now have to assist with school work, as well as daily activities.

"Another thing that is really useful to me is my Alexa," Harris said. "Every morning she wakes me up and tells me the weather, so that I can get ready and prepare for the day ahead. It also functions as my speaker in my room when my roommate and I are studying or cleaning."

Similarly, multiple other students said they could not live without social media or technology.

"I don't think I could live without my computer," sophomore Wesley Coleman said. "While having conversations with my grandma, she told me that when she was in college, the closest thing they had to a computer was a typewriter, where there was no delete button. If your grammar was bad, like mine is, you couldn't just make corrections. You would have to start all over."

Senior Phillip Walker said that whether we see social media as a good or bad thing, we can't argue that it has dramatically changed college life.

"I think that social media, while being both helpful and detrimental to our mental health, has completely changed the college experience," Walker said. "We still have a campus community, but I think the mystique of a college campus has diminished greatly compared to what past generations experienced. Social media has provided a fluidity to our social lives that has weakened students' connections to their campus communities, but much of what we do now would not be possible without it."

Lisa Fuller, student success librarian and assistant professor, said she remembers her time in college without modern technology and the effects it has had on education, specifically within the library.

"With research projects, we were primarily limited to resources we could find in our own library, and we used print books as sources for most academic work," Fuller said. "When we needed journal articles, our search began in print indexes ... We learned special codes to decipher the information in the indexes and began our hunt for articles, hoping that Harding had the journal in print."

Fuller's previous experience with research makes her grateful for the current methods used by library systems.

“Technology has made credible, academic information more accessible than I could have ever imagined,” Fuller said. “It is a game-changer ... I am still a lover of good, old-fashioned print books, but I am thankful for the ease of access that technology has provided.”